REMARKS

Claims 7-20 remain in the application for consideration by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding restriction requirement are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that the application includes claims to be patentably distinct groups including Group I, Claims 7-12, drawn to a peripheral configuration, and Group II, Claims 13-20, drawn to the operation of DMA.

At the onset, Applicant(s) note(s) that 35 U.S.C. § 121, the basis for a restriction requirement, provides for restriction only if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application. While § 802.01 of the MPEP indicates that a restriction between independent or distinct inventions is permissible, such section of the MPEP is clearly erroneous in view of the plain and unambiguous language of 35 U.S.C. § 121.

A review of the Office Action reveals that the Examiner has failed to clearly indicate how the subject matter recited in the claims in issue relating to the respective groups represents both independent and distinct inventions as required by 35 U.S.C. § 121.

In this connection, the above noted section of the MPEP defines the term "independent" as meaning that there is no disclosed relationship between the two or more subjects disclosed. That is, they are unconnected in design, operation or effect. Surely, the Examiner is not contending that the respective embodiments recited in the claims in issue have no undisclosed relationship, for if such were the case, the Examiner's contention is clearly without merit, as a review of the instant application reveals.

Further, presuming *arguendo* that the Examiner could establish that the subject matter recited in the claims in issue relates to both, independent and distinct inventions, as required by statute, once again, Applicant(s) note(s) that, as pointed out by § 803 of the MPEP, if a search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine the application on the merits, even though the application includes claims of two distinct or independent inventions.

A review of the Office Action reveals that the Examiner has failed to provide any indication as to how or why a search and examination of all 14 claims in the instant application, which number is within the total number of claims allowed for the basic filing fee, would create a serious burden on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

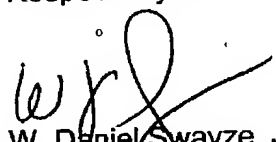
In order to comply with the Examiner's requirement, Applicant(s) provisionally elect(s), with traverse, for prosecution on the merits, Group I, Claims 7-12, which are drawn to a peripheral.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested, and an early and favorable action upon all the claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant(s) petition(s) for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 20-0668 of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,



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